

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 MC-01

ACDA-10 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 L-01 EB-03 /051 W

----- 120263

R 010638Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5602

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2685

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE SALE OF US AIRCRAFT TO NORTH KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 091422 (NOTAL)

(B) CANBERRA 2128 (NOTAL)

1. PER REF (A), EMBOFF VISITED GENERAL MANAGER
QANTAS, SYDNEY APRIL 30.

2. GENERAL MANAGER, CAPTAIN RITCHIE, ADVISED TWO
QANTAS 707S PREVIOUSLY LISTED WITH BOEING SOLD IN
MID-APRIL TO BRITISH CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS. FIRST
AIRPLANE, SOLD OUTRIGHT, NOW UNDER OVERHAUL BY QANTAS
TO BE DELIVERED PHYSICALLY TO BRITISH CALEDONIAN MAY 12.
SECOND PLANE SOLD ON LEASE-PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT. AFTER
OVERHAUL WILL BE DELIVERED MAY 29 ON LEASE WITH FULL
PURCHASE EFFECTIVE IN NOVEMBER.

3. RICHIE STATED QANTAS HAS DETAILED ASSURANCES FROM
BRITISH CALEDONIAN RE ROUTES ON WHICH AIRCRAFT WOULD
BE UTILIZED BUT DID NOT VOLUNTEER DETAILS. DEPARTMENT
MAY WISH EMBASSY LONDON TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH BRITISH
CALEDONIAN.

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4. EMBOFF, REFERRING TO REQUIREMENT FOR USG APPROVAL OF RE-EXPORT, INQUIRED WHETHER USG HAD BEEN CONSULTED OR NOTIFIED ON SALE. CAPTAIN RITCHIE STATED HE BELIEVED THIS HAD BEEN DONE BUT WOULD HAVE TO INQUIRE TO BE SURE.

5. IN ENSUING CONVERSATION, RITCHIE INDICATED HE NOT ENTIRELY SURE THIS REQUIREMENT, WITH WHICH HE WAS FAMILIAR WHEN AIRPLANES PURCHASED, STILL APPLIED. EMBOFF ASSURED HIM, BASIS PREVIOUS EMBASSY EXCHANGE WITH DEPARTMENT, THAT WE CONFIDENT REQUIREMENT STILL APPLICABLE THESE PLANES.

6. IN EXPLANATION HIS EARLIER COMMENT, RITCHIE OBSERVED QANTAS HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF ELIMINATING THIS REQUIREMENT FROM AIRCRAFT PURCHASES IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE RISK IT WOULD CREATE IN QANTAS' CONTINUING PROGRAM OF PURCHASE AND DISPOSAL TO MODERNIZE FLEET. IN LOW KEY HE OBSERVED U.S. CONCERN SEEMED ANOMALOUS IN VIEW U.S. WILLINGNESS PERMIT DIRECT SALE NEW 707 AIRCRAFT TO PRC. EMBOFF POINTED OUT SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO PRC AND RELATIONSHIP TO NORTH KOREA.

7. EMBOFF GENERALLY INQUIRED WHETHER RITCHIE AWARE OF ANY AUSTRALIAN AIRCRAFT BROKERS WITH CAPABILITY FOR HANDLING INTERNATIONAL OR OFFSHORE TRANSACTIONS IN MAJOR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT INCLUDING CONVAIR 880S. RITCHIE REPLIED IN NEGATIVE.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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